

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Official Action dated July 21, 2006. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

Claims 6-11 and 16-23 are under consideration in this application. Claims 1-5 and 12-15 are being cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 6-9 and 11 are being amended, as set forth in the above marked-up presentation of the claim amendments, in order to more particularly define and distinctly claim Applicants' invention. New claims 16-23 are being added.

The Title of the Invention and the claims are being amended to correct formal errors and/or to better recite or describe the features of the present invention as claimed. All the amendments to the claims are supported by the specification, especially the drawings. Applicants hereby submit that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

Formality Rejection

The Title of the Invention was objected to as being non-descriptive. As indicated, the Title of the Invention is being amended as required by the Examiner. Accordingly, the withdrawal of the outstanding informality rejection is in order, and is therefore respectfully solicited.

Prior Art Rejection

Claims 1-6 and 12-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by US 6,504,592 to Takatori et al. (hereinafter "Takatori"), and claims 7-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Takatori in view of US 2003/0053020 of Okada et al. (hereinafter "Okada"). These rejections have been carefully considered, but are most respectfully traversed.

The liquid crystal display device of the invention (for example, the embodiments depicted in Figs. 1A, 5A, 8A, 11-12), as now recited in claim 7, comprises: two substrates SUB1, SUB2 (e.g., Fig. 1C) arranged facing each other with liquid crystal LC interposed therebetween; a plurality of gate signal lines GLs and a plurality of drain signal lines DLs arranged on a surface SUB1 of one of the substrates; a plurality of pixel regions each defined between one pair of the gate signal lines and one pair of the drain signal lines; pixel electrodes PXs each formed on a corresponding one of the pixel regions; and opposing electrodes formed on the other one of the substrates SUB2. Each of the pixel electrodes PX in said corresponding pixel region has a plurality of circular patterns or patterns similar to circles, and each of the plurality of circular patterns or patterns similar to circles are neighboring and connecting to at least two other patterns in one direction and in another direction different from said one direction respectively (For example, each of the 1st and last pattern of each row in Fig. 1A only connects to two other patterns in two different directions, while each of the remaining patterns connects to four other patterns in four different directions. As another example, each of the 1st and last patterns in the center row in Fig. 12 connects to four other patterns in four different directions, while each of the intervening patterns in the center row connects to six other patterns in six different directions). One group of the patterns are deviated by a half pitch from a neighboring group of the patterns. Projections PRJ (Figs. 1B-C) are formed on the surface of the substrate SUB2 in which the opposing electrode are formed.

In contrast, Takatori's patterns in one row (Fig. 16) leaves each of the 1st and last pattern neighboring and connecting to only ONE other pattern in one direction, rather than AT LEAST TWO other patterns in one direction and in another direction different from said one direction respectively as each of the patterns of the present invention. As admitted by the Examiner (p. 6, last 3 lines and p. 7, lines 1-4 of the outstanding Office Action), Takatori fails to teach such a feature as well as the feature of "one group of the patterns being deviated by a half pitch from a neighboring group of the patterns" of the present invention.

Okada was relied upon by the Examiner to teach the half-pitch feature. However, as shown in Fig. 1, Okada only one pixel electrode in one pixel region defined by a pair of signal lines X and a pair of scanning lines Y. ([0024]-[0027]; "*Each of the pixel electrodes EL1 is formed of light-shielding electrode lines CM1 which are arranged radially in the pixel region, as shown in FIG. 4.*" [0027]). As such, Fig. 3 actually shows a plurality of pixel electrode patterns in a plurality of pixel region, rather than a plurality of pixel electrode

patterns in ONE pixel region as the present invention. As shown in Fig. 3, each of the plurality of pixel electrodes are separated from (rather than “connecting to”) each other.

Even if, arguendo, one skilled in the art was motivated to replace each pixel electrode EL1 in Fig. 3 of Okada with Takatori’s pixel electrode including three patterns in one row of Fig. 16 as suggested by the Examiner, such a combination only has ONE Takatori’s 3-pattern-in-1-row in each pixel region, rather than multiple-pattern-in-2-row in each pixel region as the present invention, since each of the plurality of Okada’s pixel electrodes are separated from each other. Therefore, the combined teachings would still fall short in fully meeting the Applicants’ claimed invention as set forth in claim 7 since, as discussed, there are no teachings of “each of the plurality of circular patterns or patterns similar to circles in said corresponding pixel region being neighboring and connecting to at least two other patterns in one direction and in another direction different from said one direction respectively, while one group of the patterns being deviated by a half pitch from a neighboring group of the patterns” in either Takatori or Okada.

Applicants contend that neither Takatori, Okada, nor their combination teaches or suggests each and every feature of the present invention as recited in independent claim 7. As such, the present invention as now claimed is distinguishable and thereby allowable over the rejections raised in the Office Action. The withdrawal of the outstanding prior art rejections is in order, and is respectfully solicited.

Conclusion

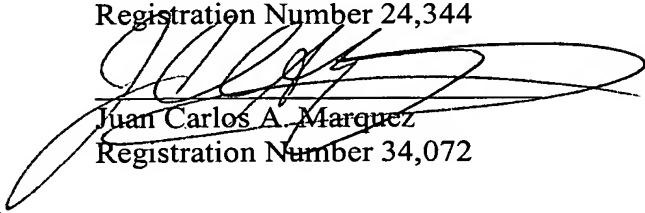
In view of all the above, clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention and the prior art references upon which the rejections in the Office Action rely, Applicant respectfully contends that the prior art references cannot anticipate the present invention or render the present invention obvious. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance

of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and telephone number indicated below.

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